

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A computer implemented method for performing compliance checking on a
2 request associated with a party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the party and an
3 entity, the request complies with specified restrictions, the method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) receiving a compliance request having an associated party and indicating a particular
5 instrument associated with an issuer;

6 (b) retrieving restrictions associated with the particular instrument from a collection of
7 restrictions;

8 (c) accessing a compliance rule set identifying at least one compliance rule selected in
9 accordance with a profile associated with the party, the profile reflecting at least the relationship
10 between the party and the entity;

11 (d) evaluating at least a portion of the rules in the compliance rule set using the retrieved
12 restrictions to determine if the request complies with the restrictions; and

13 (e) outputting a message in electronic form indicating a compliance condition in
14 accordance with results of the evaluating step.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein each compliance rule has an associated priority,
2 the priority indicating an order in which the rules are applied during the evaluating step.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of lists
2 including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second

3 list indicating restrictions related to non-public information; the priority of rules applying to the
 4 first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 2 the restrictions are indicated in least a first list and restrictions in the first list have an
 3 associated severity level;
 4 the step of retrieving comprising retrieving restrictions from the first list wherein, if a
 5 plurality of restrictions associated with the particular instrument is in the first list, retrieving from
 6 the first list only the restriction associated with the particular instrument having the highest
 7 severity level;

8 5. The method of claim 1, wherein restrictions are transaction restrictions and each
 9 restriction has an associated severity level selected from a group comprising at least one of a low
 10 severity indicating that transactions are permitted for a party in a first category and not permitted
 11 for a party in a second category, and a high severity indicating that transactions are not permitted
 12 for any party.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first category comprise customers of the
 2 entity and the second category comprises employees of the entity.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the severity group further comprises a medium
 2 severity indicating that transactions are permitted only with additional approval.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a compliance rule set
2 comprises:
3 accessing a baseline rule set;
4 accessing at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile; and
5 combining the accessed baseline rule set and the at least one additional rule set to form
6 the compliance rule set.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further combining the steps of:
2 accessing rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile; and
3 removing rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is received from the party and the
2 message is sent to the party.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is received from an electronic trading
2 system and the output message is sent to the electronic trading system.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 logging requests where a determination is made that the request violates the restrictions;
3 re-executing steps (b) – (d) on a periodic basis for logged requests;
4 if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged request does not violate the restrictions,
5 outputting a message indicating the request approval.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the entity comprises a company and the party
2 comprises one of an employee of the company, a customer of the company, and the company.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the compliance request comprises an electronic
2 document containing data indicating a company name;
3 the method further comprising the steps of extracting the company name from the
4 document and mapping the extracted company name to an associated instrument.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of embedding the
2 compliance condition message in a representation of the document.

1 16. A computer implemented method for performing compliance checking on a
2 transaction request associated with a party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the
3 party and an entity, the transaction request complies with specified restrictions, the method
4 comprising the steps of:

5 (a) providing a collection of compliance rules, at least some compliance rules having an
6 associated priority;

7 (b) receiving a transaction compliance request having an associated party and indicating a
8 particular instrument associated with an issuer;

9 (c) retrieving transaction restrictions associated with the particular instrument from a
10 collection of restrictions;

11 (d) accessing a profile associated with the party, the profile reflecting at least the
12 relationship between the party and the entity;

(e) generating a compliance rule set identifying at least one compliance rule in the collection of compliance rules by combining a baseline rule set and at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile;

(f) evaluating at least a portion of the rules in the compliance rule in order of the associated rule priorities using the retrieved restrictions to determine if the transaction request complies with the restrictions; and

(e) outputting a message in electronic form indicating if the transaction is complies with the restrictions in accordance with results of the evaluating step.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of restricted transaction lists including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second list indicating restrictions related to non-public information; the priority of rules applying to the first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating further comprises accessing rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile and removing rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
 logging transaction requests where a determination is made that the transaction does not comply with the restrictions;
 re-executing steps (d) – (f) on a periodic basis for logged transaction requests; and

5 if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged transaction request does not violate the
6 restrictions, outputting a message indicating approval of the transaction request.

1 20. method of claim 16, wherein the entity comprises a company and the party
2 comprises one of an employee of the company, a customer of the company, and the company.

1 21. A system for performing compliance checking on a request associated with a
2 party to determine if, in view of a relationship between the party and an entity, the request
3 complies with specified restrictions, the system comprising:

4 a list server having access to data indicating financial instruments subject to restrictions
5 and configured to in receive a query indicating a particular instrument and return data indicating
6 restrictions associated with the particular instrument;

7 a rules database comprising a plurality of compliance rules;

8 a profile database storing profile information for a plurality of parties, profiles reflecting
9 at least the relationship between each respective party and the entity;

10 a rules engine connected to the rules database and configured to:

11 (a) receive a compliance request indicating a particular instrument and having an
12 associated party;

13 (b) issue a query to the list server to obtain restrictions related to the particular
14 instrument;

15 (c) access a compliance rule set identifying at least one compliance rule selected
16 in accordance with the party profile;

17 (d) evaluate at least a portion of the rules in the compliance rule set using the
18 obtained restrictions; and

19 (e) output a message indicating a compliance condition for the request in
20 accordance with the evaluating step.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the system further comprises an account
2 database associating accounts with respective parties;
3 the request comprising a transaction request and specifying a transaction account;
4 the rules engine being further configured to access the account database using the
5 specified transaction account to determine the party.

1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the restrictions are contained in a plurality of
2 lists, wherein restrictions on a specific instrument can appear in multiple lists and multiple times
3 in a single list;
4 the list server comprising a list cache configured to store transaction restriction data from
5 the plurality of lists.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein each compliance rule has an associated priority,
2 the rules engine being configured to evaluate rules identified by the compliance set in order of
3 priority.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the restrictions are indicated in a plurality of lists
2 including a first list indicating restrictions related to publicly available information and a second
3 list indicating restrictions related to non-public information; the priority of rules applying to the
4 first list being greater than the priority of rules applying to the second list.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein:

2 the restrictions are indicated in least a first list and restrictions in the first list have an
3 associated severity level; and

4 the list server is configured to return from the first list only a restriction associated with
5 the particular instrument having the highest severity if a plurality of restrictions associated with
6 the particular instrument are in the first list.

1 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the restrictions are transaction restrictions and
2 each restriction has an associated severity level selected from a group comprising at least one of
3 a low severity indicating that transactions are permitted for a party in a first category and not
4 permitted for a party in a second category, and a high severity indicating that transactions are not
5 permitted for any party.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the first category comprise customers of the
2 entity and the second category comprises employees of the entity.

1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein the severity group further comprises a medium
2 severity indicating that transactions are permitted only with additional approval.

1 30. The system of claim 21, wherein the rule engine is further configured to:

2 access a baseline rule set;

3 access at least one additional rule set selected in accordance with the party profile; and

combine the accessed baseline rule set and the at least one additional rule set to form the compliance rule set.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the rule engine is further configured to:
access rule exception data selected in accordance with the party profile; and
remove rules from the compliance rule set in accordance with the rule exception data.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the rules engine is further configured to:
log requests where a determination is made that the request violates the restrictions;
re-execute request a compliance checks on a periodic basis for logged requests; and
if a re-execution indicates that a particular logged request is does not violate the
restrictions, output a message indicating the request approval.

33. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a document processor in communication with the rule engine and receiving a document
in electronic-form as input;
the document processor being configured to:
extract company names from the document;
map the extracted company names to product identifiers;
issue compliance requests to the rules engine for the product identifiers; and
produce an output indicating if the document does not comply with the
restrictions in accordance with the compliance condition message output from the rules engine.

- 1 34. The system of claim 33, wherein the output of the document processor comprises
2 a representation of the document having embedded compliance condition data therein.

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